

COUNTRY: East Germany REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC: General Military Information

EVALUATION: [REDACTED] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED: [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT: 14 to 21 February 1953

DATE OBTAINED: [REDACTED] 25X6 DATE PREPARED: 11 March 1953

REFERENCES:

PAGES: 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS:

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1. At 4:30 on 14 February 1953, 30 trucks including 3 trucks each towing a ZIS-3 76.2-mm field gun, 3 trucks each towing a canvas-covered gun, 2 trucks with field kitchens and the others carrying personnel and billeting equipment were seen leaving Camp Nochten in the Weisswasser training area. Sedan [REDACTED] moved ahead of the column. [REDACTED] A resident stated that although the unit had been at the troop training grounds for 10 days its quarters were not lighted at night. The camp was still occupied by a guard detail of about 150 soldiers. ¹

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2. Extensive traffic of motor vehicles [REDACTED] were observed in the area of Oschatz on 16 February. Only rear details apparently occupied the Oschatz barracks installation on 17 February. ²

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3. On 16 February, the barracks installation of the Damm-Jueterbog airfield was vacated. The units previously stationed there departed toward Altes Lager. On 17 and 18 February, the barracks installation was reoccupied by artillery units which came from the Fuchsberg Kaserne and the Kapellenberg Kaserne. Sixty guns of various types, 22 x 37-mm AA guns and 8 x 100-mm AT guns were sheltered in the garages. Motor vehicles seen [REDACTED]

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4. At 12:15 p.m. on 21 February, 40 T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] and about 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were entrained at the Forst Zinna railroad station. ⁴

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5. From 5 to 21 February, motorized units of various branches carrying full-field pack were seen marching day and night in the area of Gotha. They proceeded from the area of Erfurt, Weimar and Nordhausen toward Eisenach. ⁵

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6. At 9:30 p.m. on 6 February, 10 T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] were entrained at the Wittenberg railroad station. At 5 p.m. on 10 February T-34/85 tanks [REDACTED] and about 60 soldiers were entrained at the same station. ⁴

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[] Comment. [] the Weiswasser troop training grounds is used by units of the 9th Mecz Div for short-term practices.

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[] Comment. The motor vehicle numbers belong to the First Gds Mecz Army and the GCPG. Two barracks installations were previously reported from Oschatz to quarter units of the 9th Tank Div, namely the Infanterie Kaserne on Dresdener Strasse which is also referred to as Artillerie Kaserne and the barracks installation at airfield. As units of the 8th Gds Mecz Div apparently for field exercises moved to the area south of Grimma in mid-February, it is quite plausible that similar winter exercises are also conducted in the area of the 9th Tank Div. []

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[] Comment. The 47th Gds Mecz Regt and the 2497th AAA Regt of the 14th Gds Mecz Div have been carried in the barracks installation at the Darm airfield and the 6th Gds Tank Div in the Altes Lager in Justerbog. Although the number of guns of all calibers and AA guns is rather high for the two regiments it is possible that the regiments may have engaged in a 24-hour exercise and, upon its completion, may have returned to their quarters. It is also possible that they may have been transferred.

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[] Comment. It is believed that, on 21 February, all those tanks of the 6th Gds Tank Div which, on 2, 6 and 10 February in each one train had been dispatched with tanks at the Forst Zinna railroad station from Wittenberg returned from the Werder-Merkendorf troop training grounds to their home station after completion of the firing training. The entrainment of tanks including tanks [] the 52d Gds Tank Regt had already been observed at the Wittenberg railroad station on 5 February.

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[] Comment. Columns had been seen passing through Gotha toward Eisenach and back by another source on 3 and 6 February. [] It is believed that, in mid-February, winter exercises were held in the area of Ohrdruf as well as north and west of this area as they were in other areas in East Germany.

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